

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN BRAZIL, AS SEEN BY CLEMENCEAU

(Continued from Page 8.)

furrowed with a sinister glow, boughs and branches lay heaped up on the ground in immense flaming piles through which the charred stumps of boles brought low by fire crashed noisily to earth, where their corpses lay and slowly smoldered to ashes on the morrow's coffee plantation, in accordance with the law of nature which builds fresh forms of life out of the decomposed elements of death.

At nightfall we entered the station of St. Paul, where the cheers of the students in loud acclaim of the French Republic made us a joyous welcome. A few minutes later we found ourselves at a banquet attended apparently by representatives of every country of the world, and Brazilians and Frenchmen here united to express their brotherly aspirations in words of lofty idealism.

The City of St. Paul (350,000 inhabitants) is so curiously French in some of its aspects and customs that for a whole week I had not once the feeling of being abroad. The feature of St. Paul is that French is the universal language.

St. Paul's society is supposed to be more markedly individual than any other community in the republic, and it offers this double phenomenon of being strongly imbued with the French spirit, and at the same time of having developed those personal traits that go to make up its determining characteristics. You may take it for granted that the Paulist is Paulist to the very marrow of his bones, Paulist in Brazil as well as in France or any other land, and then tell me if there was ever a man more French in courtesy, more nimble in conversation in his aristocratic guise, or more amiable in common intercourse than this Paulist business man at once so prudent and so daring, who has given to coffee a new valuation.

Talk a little while with Señor Antonio Prado, Prefect of St. Paul, and one of the leading citizens, whose mansion, set in the frame of a marvelous park of tropical vegetation, would be a thing of beauty in any country, and tell me whether such elegant simplicity of speech could imaginably express any but a French soul. The same might be said of his nephew, M. Arinos de Mello, of whom I have already spoken, a clever man of letters, who divides his life between the virgin forest and the boulevard, and who might easily be taken for a Parisian but for a soft creole accent. Frenchmen basking in Brazilian suns, or Brazilians drinking deep of Latin springs—what matter by which name we know them, so that their

Curious Local Features That Are Strongly Suggestive of French Influence.

pulses beat with the same fraternal blood?

The fact that the Paulist character has been strongly developed along lines of its own, and that the autonomy of Brazilian States permits of the fullest independence of productive energy within the limits of federal freedom, has led some to draw the hasty conclusion that there is a keen rivalry between the different provinces, and to see separatist tendencies where there exists nothing but a very legitimate ambition to forward a free evolution under the protection of confederated interests.

The States of St. Paul and Rio stand at the head of the confederation both by reason of their intellectual superiority and by their economic expansion, and the steady increase of their personal weight in the federation is naturally in proportion to the influence they have succeeded in acquiring in the exercise of their right to self-government.

As no one seeks to infringe any of their prerogatives, and as the only criticism one might make would be that certain States are at present unfit to fulfill all the duties of government, while any attempt at separation must tend to weaken each and all, no serious party either at St. Paul or Rio, or indeed in any other province, would consent to even discuss the eventuality of a slackening of the federal tie. The Paulists are and will ever remain Paulists, but Brazilian Paulists.

My first visit was paid to the head of the Government of St. Paul, who extended to me the most generous hospitality. Señor Albuquerque Lins, President of the State, received me in the presence of his Ministers, Señor Olavo Egydio de Souza, Minister of Finance; Señor Carlos Guimaraes, Minister of the Interior; Señor Washington Luis, Minister of War, and Señor Jorge Tibirica, who had just vacated the Presidential chair and was one of the most distinguished statesmen of St. Paul. Señor Augusto Ramos, one of the authors of the valorisation and our Vice Consul, M. Delage, whose tact, intelligence and wide understanding of his duties are above all praise, were also present on the occasion.

The President, who had an exaggerated opinion of the defects of his French manager, to convey to me in excellently worded phrases his warm sympathy for France, which indeed he proved by the cordial reception he gave us. I in my turn assured him of the warmly fraternal

sentiments of France for Brazil and Brazilian interests in general, he also for St. Paul and Paulist society in particular.

And then, as though to prove that our compliments were not merely demanded by etiquette, the conversation turned upon matters in which St. Paul and France were so mixed that the Paulist seemed to take as much pleasure in proclaiming France as did the Frenchman in expressing his admiration for the stupendous work carried out by the Paulists with such giddy rapidity in developing a modern state that founds its hopes for the future on the miracles accomplished in the past.

It was a joy to me to run about the city haphazard. You do not ask from St. Paul the stage setting furnished by Rio. Yet there is no lack of the picturesque. The suburb of St. Paul, where costly

villas make bright spots of color in the gorgeously beflowered gardens, can offer some fine points of view. At the end of an esplanade bordered with trees, the plateau suddenly falls away into a gentle valley, which would seem admirably designed for the site of a park worthy the ambitions of St. Paul if the authorities would but set about it while the price of land is still moderate; the only public garden at present owned by the town is a pretty promenade that can scarcely be considered as more than a pleasant witness to a modest past.

In the course of our walk we came upon the museum, which stands on the hill from which the independence of Brazil was proclaimed. It contains fine zoological, botanical, and paleontological collections. I was shown moths of more than 30 centimeters in breadth of wing, and humming birds considerably smaller than cockchafers. I paused for an instant before the cases containing relics of prehistoric America, with utensils, ornaments, and barbaric dresses of the aboriginal Indians, who to-day are sadly travestied in bits of breeches and remnants of hard felt hats.

There was no time to visit the schools to whose improvement the Paulist Government attaches high importance. I promised, however, to call at the Training College, and, indeed, could scarcely have done less, since this marvelous institution would be a model in any country of Europe.

I can but regret that I am unable to lead the reader through the building to see it in all its details, its rooms for study, its gardens, its workshops. The young Head Master, Señor Ruy de Paula Souza, who was a pupil at our Auteuil College, does his professors the greatest credit and does not conceal his ambition to outdo them. A much too flattering reception was given me, in the course of which I had the surprise of hearing quotations from some of my own writings introduced into a speech made by one of the professors. France and French culture received a hearty ovation!

The warmth of the welcome given me at St. Paul could only be outdone by Rio. The charm of a hearty expansion of fraternal feeling was added to the cordiality of the demonstrations in honor of our country. The pleasure felt when members of the same family meet after separation, and find their mutual affection

has been generously developed in the course of a life's experience; this was the impression made on me by the greeting of the students both at the Training College and at the Law Schools, where one of the young men delivered a speech in excellent French that formed the best of introductions to the lecture that followed.

In the evening the same young men organized a torchlight procession. I stood at a window with a French officer on either side of me. A moving speech was made to me by a student who stood on the balcony of the house opposite. The procession passed by to the strains of the "Marseillaise," amid a tumult of hurrahs in honor of France.

I mentioned two French officers. There is here now a French Military Mission, to whom has been intrusted the training of the police force, whose duty it will be to insure order in the State of St. Paul. Col. Balagny, who is in command, was away on furlough. Lieut. Col. Gattelet, who takes his place, is a highly deserving soldier, who appears to combine strict discipline with the pleasant urbanity of the French.

I observed with satisfaction that the mission was very popular at St. Paul. When the march of the Sambre-et-Meuse rang out, a crowd assembled to watch the passing of the troops, of which they are intensely proud and which they take a delight in cheering, with their French officers marching at their head. I was able to be present at a fine review held on the field of manoeuvres at Varzea de Corma. The soldier of St. Paul would figure creditably at Longchamp, for in precision and regularity of movement he can stand any comparison. I must add that the Brazilian officers who second the efforts of the mission are actuated by a zeal that merits a large share of the credit of the results.

When I congratulated Col. Gattelet, I felt I ought to inquire whether he had been obliged to have frequent recourse to punishment in order to bring the men to the point at which I saw them.

"Punishment?" he said. "I have never had to administer any. I have no right, for one thing, and if I wanted to punish I should have to ask the permission of the Minister of War. But I have never had occasion to even think of such a thing, for all my men are as docile as they are alert and good tempered."

I could only admire. It is true we were discussing a select troop which enjoys not only special pecuniary advantages, but quarters called by the vulgar name of barracks, but which for convenience, hygiene, and comfort far surpass anything that our wretched budgets ever allow us to offer to the French recruit.